UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social
Council

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/Sub.2/1991/62
9 September 1991

Original: ENGLISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Sub-Commission on Prevention
of Discrimination and
Protection of Minorities
Forty-third session
Agenda item 6

QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS, INCLUDING POLICIES OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION AND OF APARTHEID, IN ALL COUNTRIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES: REPORT OF THE SUB-COMMISSION UNDER COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION 8 (XXIII)

Letter dated 27 August 1991 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities

In the Name of God, The Almighty

1. The question of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran has been raised, once again, by a few experts at the Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in a form of a biased and baseless resolution.

GE.91-13677/7497a

2. As in the past, the Islamic Republic of Iran maintains that such resolutions, based on some well-known ulterior motives and, reflecting misinformation collected from notorious terrorist groups whose violent crimes have been detailed and condemned in United Nations reports, are of no significance and are basically irrelevant.

3. The Commission on Human Rights has established an excellent working relationship with the Islamic Republic of Iran through minimizing politicization of issues and therefore Iran has been able to extend its full cooperation to the Commission and its Special Representative. Indeed, this mutual cooperation should serve as an example of how a constructive approach can bear positive results.

4. The Special Representative visited Iran on two occasions since 1989, and as a result of thorough investigations, it has been proved once more that many allegations concerning mass and gross violations of human rights were unsubstantiated. This process resulted in the adoption of two resolutions by the Commission on Human Rights in 1990 and 1991 without a vote.

5. Amid all these positive developments, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran very much regrets that the Sub-Commission, being influenced by those misleading and false allegations from terrorist groups, adopted a resolution based on unfounded accusations.

6. Resolutions of international bodies must be prepared with maximum care to ensure that they reflect facts that can be substantiated. Following are but a few examples of how far from the truth the contents of the resolution is:

7. Contrary to what has been suggested in the resolution, referring to the escalating violations of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Commission on Human Rights and the reports of the special representative have recognized a continuous evolution and numerous positive developments based on investigations and verifications.

8. The resolution expresses deep concern that "the International Committee of the Red Cross was not allowed to visit the country". In this connection it should be noted that the Government is in the final stages of concluding an agreement with the International Committee of the Red Cross and expresses its hope that these visits will take place soon.

9. Regarding the allegation of an assassination abroad while emphasizing once again the position of the Government in condemning any terrorist activities, it should be noted that the resolution, by misinterpreting the verdict of the Geneva Police Tribunal, goes on to pass judgement on the case by deploring "the apparent direct involvement in the killing of one or more official Iranian services", whereas the exact wording of the verdict on the case is: "in the absence of the sentence by a trial authority such an accusation, which is extremely serious, cannot be held to be true". The verdict also stresses that the reporter "[had] failed in the proof that the information was true". In the light of this, it has called for extreme caution by reporters in passing such information.

10. The information regarding these and other points in the resolution could have easily been checked and verified. The allegation by the author of the resolution and its main sponsor that the Commission on Human Rights compromises on human rights for political purposes is to be answered by the Commission itself. No doubt politics is involved in both the Commission and the Sub-Commission. However, at the Commission more care is taken to rely on facts and means of verification are available to the Commission. On the other hand, care and scrupulousness are the ingredients lacking among some experts of the Sub-Commssion.

11. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran sincerely states that it was only appropriate to have witnessed an attitude by the Sub-Commission in support of the activities of the Commission on Human Rights. But we are compelled to express with dismay that the letter and spirit of this biased resolution run contrary to our mutual and constructive cooperation with the Commission on Human Rights on this issue. The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran looks forward to a similar atmosphere of cooperation with the Sub-Commission which can only be realized through establishing mutual, constructive dialogue and exchange of information.